Vacant post of AIIMS director

*174. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the post of Director is lying vacant at AIIMS since July, 2008;

(b) if so, why this post has not been filled so far;

(c) what are the recommendations of the Valiathan Committee for selection of Director and what criteria has been set by his Ministry;

(d) which recommendations of Valiathan Committee have been implemented by his Ministry; and

(e) the details of the recommendations not accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The process of selection of the post of Director, AIIMS, has been initiated and is under process.

(c) The Valiathan Committee has recommended that the selection for the post of Director should be done by a Search-cum-Selection Committee, headed by the President of the Institute and consisting of Director General Health Services, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Vice Chancellor of Delhi University; four members of the Institute Body nominated under subsection (e) and (f) of Section 4 of AIIMS Act. Further the Valiathan Committee has recommended that the Institute Body should appoint the Director with the prior approval of the Visitor. The Government has adopted the same criteria as recommended by the Valiathan Committee, except "in place of prior approval of Visitor the prior approval of ACC" has been adopted.

(d) The Government has accepted and implemented the following Valiathan Committee recommendations:

(i) Enhancement of retirement age of teaching faculty from 62 years to 65 years.

(ii) An Advisory Committee has been constituted on CMET in K.L. Wig Centre.

(iii) Increase in research incentive to the authors of every papers published in journals.

(e) The remaining recommendations are under process of implementation/consideration.

Reduction in rice quota under PDS

*175. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has curtailed the quantity of rice under the Public Distribution System in the Above Poverty Line (APL) category in different States and Union Territories of the country with reference to the years 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) if so, the names of the States and UTs;

(c) the extent of reduction for Tripura and Kerala; and

(d) the reasons for reduction?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Allocations of food grains to States and UTs for APL category of ration card holders are made depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Offtake of food grains under TPDS has been continuously increasing since 2004-05. However, procurement of food grains for the Central Pool declined after 2005-06. As a result, the availability of stocks in the Central Pool for allocations got reduced. In order to accommodate the TPDS requirement within the stocks available in the Central Pool, while allocations for BPL & AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg per family per month for all States & UTs,. allocations of APL rice to States and UTs were rationalized from April 2007 based on its offtake during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The revised allocations were, thus, closer to the levels of actual offtake during the previous years.

2. Similarly, in view of the constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool due to lower procurement of rice during KMS 2006-07 and KMS 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, allocations for APL rice to States/UTs including Kerala for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, in the case of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, APL rice allocations during 2008-09 have been maintained at 2007-08 level.

3. The allocations and offtake of APL rice in Tripura and Kerala during the last six years have been as follows:

(Tons)

Year	Tripura		Kerala	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2003-04	1,55,580	18,853	13,61,040	6,187
2004-05	1,31,292	38,889	13,61,040	91,538
2005-06	1,31,292	37,020	13,61,040	57,492
2006-07	1,49,898	95,249	13,61,040	1,80,737
2007-08	1,14,060	106,510	3,07,008	2,94,412
2008-09	1,14,060	69,780*	2,93,672	129,221*

* Figures upto October 2008.

As can been seen from the above details, offtake of APL rice in both Tripura and Kerala has been lower than allocations, even in the year 2007-08.

Amendment of PC and PNDT Act

*176. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: